

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. - 29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently amended) A method for managing an inter-network vertical handover, comprising steps of:

at a network control unit in communication with, and control of, a mobile wireless communication device:

receiving a prompt to select a second communication network for the inter-network vertical handover for the mobile wireless communication device operating within a first communication network, wherein the first and second communication networks ~~can be~~ are different types of communication networks;

wherein the prompt comprises at least one element selected from a group consisting of: a capacity shortage in one of the communication networks, physical movement of the mobile wireless communication device, a connect request initiated by the mobile wireless communication device, and a time interval;

wherein the different types of communication networks comprise at least two of: a global communication system based on satellites, a universal mobile telecommunications system, a cellular global system for mobile communications, and a wireless local area network;

wherein the communication networks differ from each other with respect to at least one of: bandwidth, carrier frequencies, levels of user access, encoding techniques, modulation techniques, ownership, and sizes of individual network;

receiving an identification of the wireless communication device, wherein said identification comprises a location of the mobile wireless communication device and access capability to the types of communication networks;

referencing a customer profile from a customer profile memory located within the network control unit, wherein said customer profile comprises a customer's preferences regarding cost and bandwidth;

identifying availability of the different communication networks for the mobile wireless communication device, wherein availability is determined by referencing a look-up table located within the network control unit, said look-up table indicating the communication networks covering the device's location;

evaluating at least one of: current capability and load from among the identified available communication networks of each available communication network, communication costs for using the network, bandwidth, performance optimization, and the customer profile to determine the second communication network for vertical handover;

selecting the second communication network from among the different available communication networks, based on the evaluation; and

notifying the mobile wireless communication device of the second communication network recommended for the vertical handover, which recommendation automatically initiates the handover to the recommended second communication network.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) An electronic communication device comprising:

access units for different wireless networks; and

a control unit in operative communication with a network control unit for having a corresponding access unit establish a communication channel on a particular one of the networks in response to a notification from the network control unit recommending the particular one of the networks, which recommendation is binding for the communication device to connect to said recommended network;

a communication channel between the electronic communication device and the network control unit;

wherein the network control unit establishes the communication channel by performing steps of:

receiving a prompt to select a second communication network for the inter-network vertical handover for the electronic communication device operating within a first communication network, wherein the first and second communication networks can be different types of communication networks;

wherein the prompt comprises at least one element selected from a group consisting of: a capacity shortage in one of the communication networks, physical movement of the mobile wireless communication device, a connect request initiated by the mobile wireless communication device, and a time interval;

wherein the different types of communication networks comprise at least two of: a global communication system based on satellites, a universal mobile telecommunications system, a cellular global system for mobile communications, and a wireless local area network;

wherein the communication networks differ from each other with respect to at least one of: bandwidth, carrier frequencies, levels of user access, encoding techniques, modulation techniques, ownership, and sizes of individual network;

receiving an identification of the wireless communication device, wherein said identification comprises a location of the mobile wireless communication device and access capability to the types of communication networks;

fetching a customer profile from a customer profile memory located in the network control unit, wherein said customer profile comprises a customer's preferences regarding cost and bandwidth;

identifying availability of the different communication networks for the mobile wireless communication device, wherein availability is determined by referencing a look-up table located within the network control unit, said look-up table indicating the communication networks covering the device's location;

evaluating at least one of: current capability and load from among the identified available communication networks of each available communication network, communication costs for

using the network, bandwidth, performance optimization, and the customer profile to determine the second communication network for a vertical handover;

selecting the second communication network from among the different available communication networks, based on the evaluation; and

notifying the mobile wireless communication device of the second communication network recommended for the vertical handover, which recommendation automatically initiates the handover to the recommended second communication network.